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BOOK REVIEW

Curculionidae Subfamily Apioninae of North and Central America with Reviews of the World Genera of Apioninae and World Subgenera of *Apion* Herbst (Coleoptera). David G. Kissinger. Taxonomic Publications, South Lancaster, Mass. 01561, 1968, 559 pp. Lithographed; paper bound. \$20.00.

This is a monumental study, and about one half of the book comprises the author's remarkable illustrations. Most of them are enlarged photographs (15 or more on a page) of these tiny weevils which are less than 3 mm. long. The illustrations show either the entire beetle or restricted parts, such as the head, beak, elytra, and even parts as small as the antennae and the genitalia. The details of the vestiture and punctation are beautifully brought out. Line drawings of anatomical details, various graphs, and more than 20 distributional maps of the species in the United States and Central America are included. There is an index of host and associated plants as well as a general index. Even the size of the book is large, 8½ by 11 inches.

The text is chiefly a revision of the large genus *Apion* in North and Central America (about 300 species divided into 13 subgenera and various species groups), but also reviews the Apioninae of the world (nearly 1500 species distributed in 26 genera) with keys to the genera. The 36 subgenera of *Apion* of the world are briefly diagnosed and illustrated.

Utilizing genitalic and other structures not employed previously, Kissinger has redefined the subfamily to include two tribes, Ithycerini and Nanophyini, which were formerly considered as subfamilies of the Curculionidae. He has an excellent discussion of the structures and characters used, and their importance in this taxonomically difficult group.

The author's methods are thorough, he characterizes all categories (tribes, subtribes, genera, species groups, etc.), and he gives complete citations of types and the literature for species and genera. At the end of the book he lists the higher categories in the world fauna and all the species in North and Central America and some additional notes on the subfamily. This will be the "bible" of the Apioninae for some time to come.

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